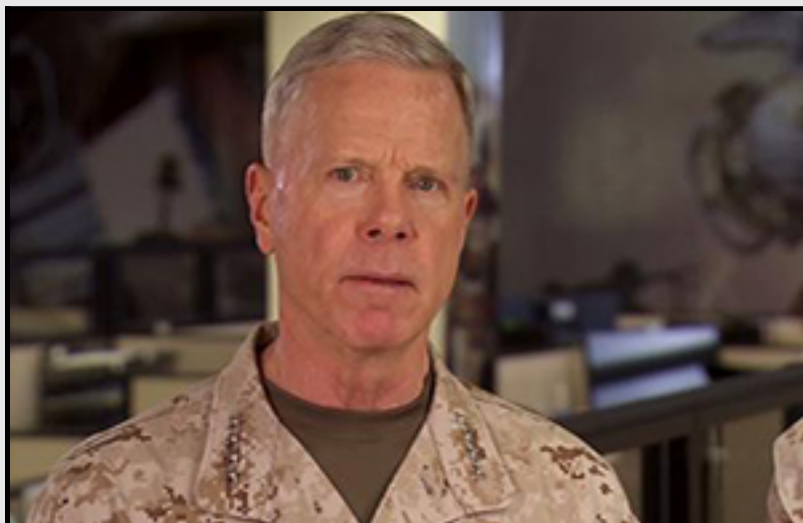




TIP OF THE SPEAR

COMMANDANT: 'LEAN TIMES' WITH BUDGET CUTS



With sequestration cuts looming, Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, emphasized "lean times for the foreseeable future," in a video message April 11 with Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Micheal P. Barrett. "The period of austerity has just begun," Amos said. The Corps' training and operations are funded through September, but that doesn't remove the sequestration cuts. "Unless Congress changes the law, those deep sequestration cuts will be with us for the next nine years," he said. Immediate concerns, such as training and operations have been addressed, and logistic depots

equipment from deployments. [Read more](#)

will remain open to receive battle-worn

[Watch the video](#)



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Landing support specialists back away after connecting a Humvee to a MV-22B Osprey during external lift training at Subic Bay, Philippines, during exercise Freedom Banner 2013. The training was the first time an Osprey has conducted an external lift with the Sacagawea. *(Photo by Pfc. Kasey Peacock)*



IN THE NEWS

BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE WELCOMED TO ROMANIA



Marines and Sailors with Black Sea Rotational Force (BSRF) 13 arrived at Mihail Kogalniceanu, Romania April 11, which will serve as the unit's home throughout its six-month deployment as a crisis contingency force. BSRF-13 is a Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF) working in the Black Sea region to promote regional security and stability. The next military engagement scheduled is Exercise Summer Shield in Latvia, where the SPMAGTF will work to increase the overall effectiveness of the Latvian land forces to operate independently as a NATO member.

[Read more](#)

PHILIPPINE MARINES SHARE JUNGLE SURVIVAL SKILLS DURING BALIKATAN



Marines and Sailors from the 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion and Combat Logistics Regiment 35 participated in a jungle environmental survival training class instructed by Philippine reconnaissance Marines April 10 during exercise Balikatan 2013. The training helped the Marines better understand jungle warfare tactics and further strengthened the relationship between the two forces. "This was a good opportunity to share the information we have and the tactics we use to survive in the jungle," said Philippine Marine Sgt. Bimbo Busico. "It wasn't only about training, but also about the camaraderie amongst the forces. We are always sharing our tactics and techniques." [Read more](#)

U.S., JAPAN AGREE ON OKINAWA RESTRUCTURING



U.S. and Japanese officials signed an agreement April 5 that will open the



door to the reduction of Marines on Okinawa, shifting them to Guam and Hawaii as forces are realigned across the Pacific. The agreement would transfer six major properties and other parcels, totaling about 2,500 acres in the southern part of Okinawa. The assets would be returned to local Okinawan control starting next year at the earliest. "Now more than ever, it is essential that the United States maintain a geographically distributed and sustainable force throughout Asia that can provide for the protection of Japan and our other allies, and U.S. interests," said Defense Secretary

Chuck Hagel. [Read more](#)

I MEF HONORS FALLEN



The I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) (Forward) held a ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 11, honoring all the coalition service members lost in the Helmand and Nimruz provinces, Afghanistan. During a year in command of international forces in NATO's southwestern region, I MEF (Forward) lost 86 -- 45 Americans, 34 British troops, three Georgians, two Australians, a Dane and a Jordanian. "The families here need to know that each one of these heroes and everyone else who has served in Afghanistan has made a difference," said Maj. Gen. Charles Mark Gurganus, former commanding general in the provinces. During the

ceremony, as each name was announced, a Marine rang the bell and draped a metal tag over the battle cross of rifle, helmet and boots. [Read more](#)

SOUTH CAROLINA WOUNDED WARRIOR PROUD OF HIS IMPACT ON OTHERS



Lance Cpl. Kyle Carpenter is being considered for the Medal of Honor following his heroic actions Nov. 21, 2012 in Marjah, Afghanistan. The 23-year-old dove on top of a grenade to shield his squad members. Having faced irreversible injuries and countless surgeries, Carpenter is adjusting to normal life; he is focusing on the positive side of his story, hoping it serves as a way for Americans to understand the sacrifices troops make every day. "The best thing that's come out of it is the impact I've had on other people," he said. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

APRIL 17, 1849

Marines were aboard the USS Preble when she became the first American warship to visit Okinawa, Japan. The Preble was ordered to retrieve the crewmembers of a whaling ship that were kept prisoners in Japan for seven months after wrecking off the coast.



SEMPER FI

WWII MARINES MEET, BOND 68 YEARS AFTER IWO JIMA



Two strangers who fought at the battle for Iwo Jima during World War II 68 years ago became brothers April 12 when they met for the first time. Jim Williams and John Elliott were teenagers and members of the 4th Marine Division. Williams was part of the 23rd Regiment; Elliot was a member of the 25th Regiment. When they met, the men hugged and tears welled in their eyes, remembering the battle that nearly claimed William's life, and left them both with post-traumatic stress disorder. Though the men never met prior to that day, they feel forever united by a journey taken so many years ago. [Read more](#)

OUR MISSION

*In the words of Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps...the United States wants a Marine Corps." As America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps is deployed across the globe, standing ready to respond to any crisis. The Marine Corps Connection is your one-stop source for the latest Marine Corps news and is published weekly by the Division of Public Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps. **Stay connected to your Marines!***



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